

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for an intracardiac device, said front-end loader comprising:
 - a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and
 - a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, said lumen of said distal portion being co-extensive with said expanded lumen of said proximal portion, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube, wherein said beveled end receives said intracardiac device into the lumen of said distal portion of a [[said]] front-end loader.
2. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein the beveled end is chamfered.
3. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 2, wherein the beveled end is chamfered around the perimeter of the distal end of the tube.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein the expanded lumen is conically shaped.
6. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said intracardiac device comprises an intracardiac occluder.
7. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

8. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.
9. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.
10. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a patent foramen ovale.
11. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said prosthetic occluder to withdraw said prosthetic occluder from a patient's body.
12. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said intracardiac device to deliver said intracardiac device into a patient's body.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently amended) A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for an intracardiac device, said front-end loader comprising:
 - a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and
 - a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, said lumen of said distal portion being co-extensive with said expanded lumen of said proximal portion, and a chamfered rim, said chamfered rim positioned at said distal end of said tube, said chamfered rim comprising an outer rim and an inner rim, said inner rim positioned proximal to said outer rim, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said intracardiac device into the lumen of a [[said]] distal portion of said front-end loader.
15. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the distal end of said tube is beveled.

16. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the chamfered rim is chamfered around the perimeter of the distal end of the tube.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the expanded lumen is conically shaped.

19. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said intracardiac device comprises an intracardiac occluder.

20. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

21. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

22. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

23. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a patent foramen ovale.

24. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said intracardiac device to withdraw said intracardiac device from a patient's body.

25. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said intracardiac device to deliver said intracardiac device into a patient's body.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a collapsible intracardiac device to a defect at an anatomical site in a patient, said method comprising:
providing a front-end loader comprising:
a proximal portion comprising an expanded lumen; and

a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, said lumen of said distal portion being co-extensive with said expanded lumen of said proximal portion, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube;

receiving said intracardiac device in the lumen of said tube;

delivering said intracardiac device to the patient; and

implanting the intracardiac device at the anatomical site in the patient.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

introducing said beveled end into a lumen of a portion of an introducer sheath for the intracardiac device and crossing a gland in the lumen of the introducer sheath.

29. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving a collapsible intracardiac device from a patient, comprising:

providing a front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising an expanded lumen; and

a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, said lumen of said distal portion being co-extensive with said expanded lumen of said proximal portion, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube, wherein said beveled end is chamfered;

receiving said intracardiac device in the lumen of said tube; and

retrieving said intracardiac device from the patient.

30. (Previously presented) The front end loader of claim 1 wherein the lumen of said proximal portion is joined to the lumen of said distal portion.